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influence the author has sought to develop by arousing and fostering as much as possible the originality and initiative of the student. He has given as much room as possible to the exercises, which as a rule are of a studied, connected character. He has added in an appendix a valuable note on the methods of procedure in geometrical discovery, and also notes on the postulate of Euclid, regarding which the ideas of modern geometricians have taken so clear and definitive a form as to render it possible to give some exposition of their ideas in an elementary work. There is also a note on the problem of tangent circles and one on the notion of areas. To the third book, which treats of similitude, etc., a modern supplement has been added, treating of vectors, transversals, reciprocity, the anharmonic ratio, poles and polars, inverse figures, etc. All such innovations have given a distinctively modern stamp to the treatment, which in all matters where generality is involved departs radically from the methods of Euclid and Legendre; for example, the consideration of the directions of rotation of angles has enabled the author to give full generality to the propositions regarding circles, without rendering these propositions less simple or elementary.

The *Cosmography* of M. Tisserand, director of the Paris Observatory, and M. Andoyer, lecturer in the Faculty of Sciences of Paris, is a valuable contribution to the text-book and reading literature of astronomy. The authors understand the art of separating what is essential from what is accidental, without destroying the intrinsic beauty of the science. The many current fictions of astronomy are frankly stamped as such, and the solid acquisitions clearly delineated. The development of the text is clear, accurate, and methodical; little mathematics is required, and that not extending beyond elementary trigonometry. The most recent investigations have been recorded so far as possible, and twelve excellent plates, which have been made from the best modern photographs of the heavens, have been added to the work. Considerable matter of those branches which are called physical geography and mathematical geography has been incorporated. At the conclusion, more than one hundred pages have been given over to the history of astronomy, and to notes upon special technical points of difficulty.

The two succeeding volumes of the series are announced as being in the press; they are a treatise on solid geometry by M. Hadamard, and one on mechanics by M. Koenigs.

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LETTRES INÉDITES DE JOHN STUART MILL À AUGUSTE COMTE. Publiées avec les réponses de Comte et une introduction par L. Lévy-Bruhl. Paris: Félix Alcan. 1899. Pp., 560+xxxviii. Price, 10 fr.

The Letters of August Comte to John Stuart Mill were published in 1877 by the Society of Positivists. The letters of Mill were not included in the volume. Professor Lévy-Bruhl, who was fortunately able to procure a faithful copy of Mill's letters, now publishes the text of the correspondence on both sides.

The letters are eighty-nine in number, and extend over a period of six years

(1841-1847). The correspondence was from the start actively conducted, two letters having been exchanged nearly every month. It began with expressions of fervent admiration on the part of Mill, and it was not until the exchange of thought degenerated into controversy that the zeal of the two philosophers abated. It throws a strong light on the character of the two men, and the gentleness and receptivity of Mill are sharply contrasted with the intellectual rigidity of Comte. Comte was relentless in the support of his system. Mill proposed that they discuss together their "opinions" on a certain point; Comte answered that he had no "opinions"; he had a body of doctrine, a system; it was the precise object of his philosophy to do away with "opinions." He could not understand how he could be led to "modify his opinion" upon any given point. All that he would admit was that his opinion could be proved incompatible with his system. That system he believed to be demonstrated beyond a doubt; his philosophy was a science; and with it his whole being was identified. He could not understand how his English friends could accept one part of it and reject another, and it was ultimately his greatest grief that his sociology, which to his mind was the flower of his doctrine, should have been the point of greatest dissent. He believed Mill to be an unqualified adherent of his doctrine, and when he discovered that he was not, his interest in him waned. Through Mill, he eventually received what he called his "English subsidy" (6000 fr.) from Grote, Sir William Molesworth, and Mr. Raikes Currie, and was astonished when at the end of a year it was not repeated. He could not understand how any person who accepted his philosophy and religion could refuse financial support for its propagation, especially when such a person were rich.

The picture here offered of the great French philosopher is a very fine one, and the portrayal of the character of the English thinker has also taken a pleasing form. The one was the incarnation of rigor, the other was the embodiment of intellectual hesitancy. Mill could not be got to adopt a definitive opinion; he was not disposed to sacrifice the least particle of truth for the sake of rigorous consistency. Professor Lévy-Bruhl has well characterised the two types. The march of the philosophical thought of Comte, he says, is comparable to a straight line; that of Mill is comparable to a sinuous curve which indicates at every point of its path the influence to which it has been subjected. At one time the curve approached very near to the straight line, but it afterwards veered widely from it.

This collection of letters traces an extremely interesting episode in the intellectual history of the nineteenth century. For social philosophy in particular it is of great importance, and the editor, Professor Lévy-Bruhl, is to be congratulated upon the service which he has rendered in publishing the volume. T. J. McC.

KLEINE MATHEMATISCHE BIBLIOTHEK AUS DER SAMMLUNG GÖSCHEN. Leipzig: G. J. Göschen'sche Verlagshandlung. 1898. Price, each volume, 20 cents.

A series of scientific and literary manuals is now being issued by Göschen of Leipzig, which deserves notice both from its remarkable cheapness and from the